



A Glimpse into the Societies of the Mid-Atlantic States

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Objective

Patrons will become familiar with the resources of the following Mid-Atlantic Societies:

- Historical Society of Pennsylvania
- New York Genealogical & Biographical Society
- The Genealogical Society of New Jersey

Introduction

Genealogical and historical societies play a valuable role in family history research by providing many unique resources and services and also by bringing together people with similar interests and goals.

Historical Society of Pennsylvania

<https://www.portal.hsp.org/collections>

From the website:

With more than 21 million items in our collections, from diaries and letters to deeds and directories, HSP is one of the most complete and professional genealogy centers in the nation—and the largest in the Mid-Atlantic region.

HSP's collections include a number of different types of materials:

- Books and pamphlets – ranging from limited-edition and out-of-print volumes to current reference works and scholarly monographs. HSP's pre-1820 imprints are housed next door at The Library Company of Philadelphia.
- Serials and newspapers – spanning almost 300 years, in either original format or microfilm copy.
- Manuscripts – materials such as letters, diaries, account books, deeds, minutes, and scrapbooks. Manuscript collections include personal papers created by individuals and families, and records created by organizations and businesses.
- Graphics – prints, watercolors, and other works of art on paper, architectural drawings, photographs, broadsides, maps, posters, and other images.
- Printed ephemera – such as event programs, brochures, invitations, advertisements, trade cards, certificates, and menus.
- Microforms – microfilm and microfiche reproductions of newspapers, genealogical resources, manuscript collections, and other materials.

The HSP publishes the *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*, three times a year, and *Pennsylvania Legacies*, twice a year.

New York Genealogical & Biographical Society

<https://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org>

From the website:

Since 1869, the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society has been preserving historical records that are useful to family history researchers investigating people from New York state.

Collections include but are not limited to:

- Cemetery Records
- Religious Records
- Compiled Genealogies
- County Histories
- Newspapers
- State Censuses
- Naturalization Records

NYG&B publishes a quarterly journal, *The Record*.

Webinars can be viewed at <https://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/webinars>.

The Genealogical Society of New Jersey

Content provided by Joan E. Betancourt

<https://www.gsnj.org>

Since its founding, GSNJ has collected manuscripts and research papers. The Society's extensive collection is a key resource for New Jersey genealogy, augmenting the holdings of public and academic research institutions. In 1960, GSNJ's manuscript collections were placed on deposit at Rutgers University, Alexander Library, Special Collections and University Archives (SC/UA), New Jersey Room, New Brunswick, New Jersey.

Visit <https://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/new-brunswick/visit-study/locations/special-collections-university-archives> for the latest news on hours and access policies.

Collections on-site include but are not limited to:

- Bible and Family Records
- Cemetery Records
- Emigrant Register
- Military Service Records
- Family notes, compilations, and correspondence regarding primarily New Jersey families

Finding Aids are available online at <http://gsnj.org/gsnj-collections/>

GSNJ accepts donations to the Collection. Contact the Manuscripts Committee Chair via email at reference@gsnj.org, or via mail: Janet T. Riemer, GSNJ Manuscripts Committee, P.O. Box 664, Hopewell, NJ 08525

Bible Records: GSNJ has the largest collection of New Jersey Bible records in existence. Most of the bibles are pre-1850. The collection is indexed and organized in bound volumes. The index is online at <https://www.gsnj.org/gsnj-collections/bible-records-index/>. Also, a downloadable PDF file is available at <https://www.gsnj.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/GSNJ-Bible-Record-Index-MASTER-FILE-080719.pdf>.

GSNJ accepts donations to the collections. See <https://www.gsnj.org/gsnj-collections/bible-records-index/submitting-a-record/> for instructions.

New Jersey State Censuses, 1855-1915: Conducted every ten years in the “five” years between the Federal enumerations. The 1885 and 1895 censuses are nearly complete and can serve as a substitute for the 1890 Federal census. Visit <https://www.gsnj.org/new-jersey-state-censuses/> for a County-by-County Guide breakdown on existing records and where to find them.

New Jersey Early Land Records Project: GSNJ and the New Jersey State Archives have been collaborating to provide access to more than 80,000 colonial and proprietary land records held by NJSA. Most of the documents are from the pre-1785 period before county clerks were required by law to systematically record deeds.

The records are searchable on the New Jersey State Archives site at https://wwwnet-dos.state.nj.us/DOS_ArchivesDBPortal/index.aspx. Select **Early Land Records, 1650-1900s** from the list of searchable collections.

Viewable PDF files are available for many of the records. Those with an index entry only must be obtained at the NJSA.

When completed, the resultant online resource will include:

- Deeds and surveys of the Provincial Secretary/Secretary of State, 1650-1883
- Surveys, warrants, and deeds of the East Jersey Proprietors, 1670-1952
- Surveys, warrants, and deeds of the West Jersey Proprietors, 1654-1990s
- Deeds and mortgages of the county courts and loan offices, 1664-1785
- Original land records in miscellaneous collections of the State Archives

Finding aids and instructions are available on the **Early Land Records, 1650-1900s** page.

Publications:

The Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey, published quarterly since 1924 and provided to members

GSNJ Newsletter, publication temporarily on hold

Programs: Visit www.gsnj.org and go to the Program tab for the current programs. Some events are free and some require a fee.

Books and Maps: GSNJ has several books, maps and back issues of *GMNJ* for sale. View the current inventory of publications and purchase items at <https://njgenealogy.square.site/> or email sales@njgenealogy.com. Not all back issues of *GMNJ* are listed on the bookstore. Send an email to inquire about specific issues.

Research Assistance:

GSNJ offers assistance to those who cannot access the GSNJ collections in person or who have questions about our holdings. Membership in GSNJ is not required for research requests. Visit <https://www.gsnj.org/gsnj-research-assistance/> for instructions on submitting an inquiry to the Corresponding Secretary via email or USPS mail.

For more detailed inquiries or requests for records not available in the GSNJ collections, GSNJ maintains a list of New Jersey professional researchers who can provide individualized research or record lookups at the Alexander Library, NJ State Archives and other research locations in New Jersey. This list is provided by GSNJ as a public service only and can be viewed at <https://www.gsnj.org/professional-genealogists/>.

GSNJ Membership:

GSNJ offers multi-year individual, family and international memberships; contributing and supporting annual memberships, lifetime memberships, and subscriber memberships. Visit <https://njgenealogy.square.site/> to purchase or renew a membership. Libraries, archives, and historical/genealogical societies and associations should email membership@gsnj.org to purchase or renew a membership.

See <https://www.gsnj.org/membership/> for membership benefits which include subscription to the *GMNJ*, digital delivery of *GSNJ NewsBrief*, discounts on publications at the GSNJ Bookstore purchases and other benefits.